

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) – Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What types of projects can be funded through the CIAP?

- A. 1) Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetland; 2) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources; 3) Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section; 4) implementation of a federally approve marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; and 5) mitigation of the impacts of OCS activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs. Not more than 23 percent of the CIAP funds received by the State or parishes for any fiscal year can be used for the purposes described in items 3) and 5).

Q2. How much money can be spent on infrastructure projects?

- A. Not more than 23 percent of the CIAP funds received by the State or a coastal parish for any fiscal year can be spent on infrastructure projects; or for planning assistance and the administrative costs of compliance with CIAP provisions.

Q3. How much funding is available; when will we get the funding; and how is it calculated?

- A. The program will provide an estimated \$135 million/year of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) mineral revenues to Louisiana for 4 years, beginning October 1, 2006. The total four-year funding to Louisiana is estimated at \$540 million; 35 percent (\$189 million) is dedicated to the coastal parishes. The formula used to determine the amount paid to the parishes is based on the amount of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues produced offshore of Louisiana (in the years 2006 and 2008); the population of the parish; the number of miles of coastline of the parish; and the distance from the parish to leased tracts.

Q4. Since funding for the programs is being made to parishes across four years, will a parish be able to receive all of their funding at one time?

- A. If a parish can prove that it is ready to move forward with construction of a project (i.e. provide the state with a copy of all necessary permits, a copy of their construction plans and specifications and certification that they have received the necessary landrights approvals) requests will be entertained by the state on a case by case basis, if state funding is available.

Q5. Can a parish submit a project that exceeds the funding allocated to that parish?

- A. Yes, parishes can request that the state cost-share with the parish on projects. Projects requesting a state match will have to meet a higher threshold than projects that parishes submit as parish funded only. Also, if a project is regional and overlaps parish lines, parishes may jointly submit a regional project.

Q6. Where will project nominees and ideas come from?

Sources of projects will include but not be limited to unfunded projects from the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA); the Louisiana Comprehensive Area Plan (LCA); the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan; and the State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin.

Projects funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection, and Restoration Act CWPPRA projects that have requested construction funds but, have not been funded will be considered as nominees for this plan. CWPPRA projects that are still in the engineering and design phase and have not requested construction funds will not be considered for this plan. Projects that are nominees in the CWPPRA planning process will not be considered for this plan. If you would like a list of those projects, we will provide one to you. Similarly, projects funded through the LCA or other programs and are in an active status will not be considered for funding through this program.

Q7. Can an individual nominate a project?

Yes. Projects can be nominated by individuals in writing prior to the March 8 deadline for submitting project proposals. The information that must be provided is:

1. Project Title:
2. Who the Project is Submitted By:
3. Contact Information:
4. Description and location of Project: (What features are to be built?)
5. Project Type: (see the answer to Question 3 for a listing of the different project types)
6. Project Justification: (What is the problem that the project would address?)

Project nominations can be mailed to:

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Engineering Division
P. O. Box 44027
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027
ATTN: Greg Grandy

Project nominations can be delivered to:

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division
617 North 3rd Street, 10th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027
ATTN: Will Norman

Project nominations can be emailed to:

CIAP@la.gov

Q8. What criteria will be used to decide what projects are selected to be funded with state money?

A. The criteria that will be used during the selection process will include:

1. Is the proposed project free of issues that may impact timely implementation of the project features?
2. Is the proposed project linked to a regional strategy for maintaining established landscape features critical to a sustainable ecosystem structure and function?
3. Does the proposed project protect health and safety or infrastructure of national, state, regional or local significance? (e.g., would reduce coastal flooding impacts)
4. How cost effective is the proposed project?
5. What is the certainty of benefits resulting from implementation of the proposed project?
6. Does the proposed project address an area of critical conservation/restoration need or a high land loss area?
7. How sustainable are the benefits of the proposed project?

Q9. How will we be notified of what projects are selected?

A. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will publicly advertise the draft plan on April 7, 2006. A series of regional public meetings will be conducted April 10-13, 2006 to receive public comments on the plan. The state will address the public comments and make revisions to the plan (including the recommended list of projects) prior to its submission to the Minerals Management Service for their review and approval on June 1, 2006. The plan will be placed on the DNR website at the following address <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/crm/ciap/ciap.asp>.

Q10. Is the State plan being developed for all four years of funding or will a separate plan be developed each year?

A. The State Plan that is being developed is for all four years of funding.

Q11. Can a parish change or modify a project once the plan is submitted?

A. Yes. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will annually provide an opportunity to review the status of the plan; and modifications to the state plan or individual projects can be made at that time.

Q12. Can projects nominated or proposed for CIAP funding be cost shared?

A. Funds from the CIAP program can be cost shared with other non-Federal funds. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources is waiting on guidance from the Minerals Management Service to determine if CIAP funds be used by states or coastal parishes as required non-Federal cost share for Federally funded projects.

Q13. Is a non-Federal cost share required for CIAP-funded projects?

A. A non-Federal cost share is not required for CIAP-funded projects.

Q14. What parishes are considered to be coastal parishes?

A. Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne and Vermilion are the Louisiana coastal parishes. These parishes lie all or in part within the state coastal zone as defined by section 304(1) of the Coastal Zone Management of 1972, as amended.

Q15. How will National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance be handled?

A. The U. S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is administering the CIAP at the federal level. The MMS is expected to address NEPA compliance and procedures when they issue CIAP guidelines in the near futures. It is possible that they will pursue compliance in a tiered approach with a programmatic approval for all of the CIAP projects in the state plan. If projects rise to a certain acreage, funding amount or are of a type not covered by the programmatic approval, those projects will require individual environmental assessments accompany their regular permitting activities.

Q16. Our parish does not have the staff or the resources since the hurricanes to develop projects, is there any assistance that can be provided?

A. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Angelle has directed appropriate staff to provide support to the parishes in the development of their project proposals for CIAP funding. Parish officials requiring such assistance may call (225) 342-7308 and ask for David Fruge, Will Norman or Greg Grandy and we will assist you in any way possible.